

# Crystal Cave Rocks!



Explore fabulous formations! Protected since its discovery in 1918, this is the only one of over 200 caves in these parks that can be toured. ©NPS Photo

Tickets are NOT sold at the cave, only at Lodgepole and Foothills visitor centers. Buy them at least 1-1/2 hours in advance of your tour.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles (24 km) from the Sequoia Park entrance on Hwy 198, and 3 miles (5 km) south of the General Sherman Tree (see map on page 12). Maximum vehicle length is 22' (6.7 m).

Use restrooms at the parking lot; these are not available at the cave. Wear sturdy shoes; the 1/2-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep. Bring a jacket; the cave is 50° F (10° C).

No strollers, tripods, or baby backpacks. Not wheelchair accessible. Schedules are subject to change. Ask about Wild Cave Tours and group reservations! Tours operated by SNHA: 1-559-565-3756.

## 45-minute tours (be sure to check details above):

**Schedule:** Daily 11am -4pm on the half-hour through Monday, September 6. Tours then continue on a reduced schedule into the fall. On weekends, tours may be added at 10 & 10:30am and at 4:30 & 5pm if needed.

**Fees** - Ages 6-12 \$5; age 13-61 \$10; age 62 & up, \$8; under 6 free. National Park & Golden Age passes do not apply. SNHA members get a 50% discount! All fees go to help the parks.

## 2-hour Discovery Tours through September 3<sup>rd</sup>:

4:15 pm daily *except Saturdays* - Limited to 12 people aged 13 & up. \$18 each (\$16 ages 62 & up; \$12 for SNHA members).

## NATURALIST PROGRAMS

**WALKS & TALKS** Join in the free ranger activities at Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Wuksachi, the Foothills, Grant Grove, Cedar Grove, and USFS areas. See *Nature Programs* on pages 5 & 7 and check bulletin boards for detailed schedules. Many activities are offered through mid-August; some continue into September. Ranger programs have been a tradition here since 1931 — join us!

**VISITOR CENTERS** Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy and sells a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Your purchases help to support the parks!

**JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM** People of all ages earn a patch while learning to protect resources. Those 5 to 8 years old earn the Jay Award. If you are 9 to 12 years old, work for a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn a Senior patch! To get started, purchase a Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions and have fun!

### TEACHERS - BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS!

Rangers offer curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 6th-grade classes in spring & fall. Topics include geology & caves, sequoias, & Native Americans. Call 1-559-565-4303 to reserve a date for a fun, interactive program!

# Activities

## SEQUOIA FIELD INSTITUTE!

Enjoy your parks more than ever – try the Sequoia Field Institute! Choose from their wide variety of programs: indoor and outdoor seminars, nature hikes, backpacking, school trips, and environmental education. In winter learn cross-country skiing, spend a day exploring on snowshoes, or try winter camping!

Housed in the Beetle Rock Education Center in Giant Forest, the Institute also arranges special educational packages for your club, school, group, or extended family. Whether you are new to the parks or an old hand, there is something for you at the Field Institute.

The Institute offers low fees, and any profits go to support park education and science programs. Pick up a course catalog at any visitor center or contact the non-profit Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA), which operates the Institute: [www.sequoiahistory.org](http://www.sequoiahistory.org) or [john\\_lockhart@sequoiahistory.org](mailto:john_lockhart@sequoiahistory.org) or 1-559-565-4251.

## WHERE CAN I...

*You are visiting two different types of areas - a National Park and a National Forest. Some activities may be illegal in the Park but legal in the surrounding Forest. See page 2 to learn why this is so, and use a map to know where you are!*

- **WALK A PET** *In Parks:* Not on trails but it's ok in developed areas (campgrounds, picnic areas, roads). *In National Forest:* Pets can go on trails. *In both areas:* Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave them in hot cars.
- **RIDE A BICYCLE** *In Parks:* Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail. *In National Forest:* Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. *In both areas:* Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

- **GO CAMPING** *In Parks:* Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. *In National Forest:* In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road & no further.
- **CUT WOOD** *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 1-559-338-2251.
- **GO FISHING** *In both areas:* Permitted during the season; a California fishing license is required for ages 16 & up. Get copies of park-specific regulations at any visitor center.
- **FEED WILDLIFE** *Don't do it anywhere! Animals become unnaturally dependent. Some can be dangerous; some can carry disease. Roadside beggars get hit by cars.*
- **DRIVE OFF-ROAD** *Not in either area. Stay on roads.*

- **HAVE A FIRE** Expect to limit your use of fire this summer due to *very* dry conditions. Check for restrictions before starting any fire, including charcoal. Smoking locations may be limited as well. *In Parks:* Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. *In National Forest:* Fire permits are required. Get one free at Grant Grove Visitor Center, Big Stump Entrance Station, or the USFS office in Dunlap on Highway 180.
- **GO PICNICKING** See picnic symbols on map (back page). Check for fire restrictions before starting any wood or charcoal fire! *Never leave food unattended due to bears!* Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. Fires are never permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Grizzly Falls, Halstead, and Powdercan.

- **COLLECT THINGS** *Not in the Parks: Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem.* *In National Forest:* Gathering a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. *In both areas:* Archaeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.

### • RIDE HORSEBACK

Rides by-the-hour & backcountry spot trips and guides.

#### Cedar Grove

1-559-565-3464 summer  
1-559-337-2314 off season

#### Grant Grove

1-559-335-9292 summer  
1-559-337-2314 off season

**Mineral King** - closed for the season. Call the park for information: 1-559-565-3106

**Horse Corral** (in National Forest/Monument)

Please call for reservations.  
1-559-565-3404 summer  
1-559-564-6429 off season  
1-559-679-3573 cell